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A certain want of proportion is observable, much more space being given to some subjects than to others of equal or greater importance. It is particularly defective in almost ignoring the conventions, above referred to, of the four Hague Conferences, now governing international relations in continental Europe as to most matters of conflict in private law.

The author's portfolio seems also to have been emptied into the appendix, which fills a third of the volume.

It may be doubted if he is justified in classing (p. 398) England and America generally as adhering to the doctrine that foreign judgments should be executed, without any re-examination, on condition of the existence of reciprocity and of jurisdiction shown in the foreign court.

In dealing with foreign names, he is not always accurate, as, for instance, in speaking of President Gefferson, Dr. Warton, and Heriberto Spencer.

S. E. B.

The Law of Libel and Slander. By W. Blake Odgers, LL.D., Benchet of the Middle Temple; Recorder of Plymouth. With Canadian Notes by W. J. Tremear, of the Canadian Bar. Fifth Edition. London: Stevens and Sons. Toronto: Canada Law Book Company. Philadelphia: Cromarty Law Book Company. 1912. pp. cx, 956.

Mr. Odgers herewith presents the fifth edition of his "*Digest of the Law of Libel and Slander.*" This work is an excellent treatment of the subject, and is deserving of high commendation. It is not a mere collection of cases, but is a concise and lucid statement of the net result of the authorities. Our deep regret is that the book is based on English and not American decisions. This, however, cannot be said by way of criticism, for the book is a Canadian edition of an English treatise, and sets forth no further pretensions.

The subject in all of its phases is carefully gone into. After setting forth the broad general principles, the author launches into the details of the subject, treating with great particularity what words are actionable, privilege absolute and qualified, who can be sued, to what extent recovery can be had, in short going fully into

ing as an object the lessening of certain clearly-defined and exist- chapter on "Malice" is especially to be noted, in which the fictitious use of "malice," as denoting "absence of legal excuse," is abandoned, and in this book "'Malice' does not mean 'malice in law,' a term in pleading, but actual malice, that which is properly called 'malice.'"

Then the adjective law of libel and slander is not slighted. The practice, procedure and evidence in both civil and criminal actions are carefully treated. A civil action and a criminal trial are conducted from start to finish, from precautionary considerations before the action is brought to proceedings which may be taken after trial. And in the Appendix is a collection of precedents of pleadings and forms for use in actions of libel and slander.

This work is essentially practical. It is an ideal treatise, condensed and clear, but comprehensive fairly to the point of being exhaustive in the field it sets out to cover. English and Canadian practitioners should find the book of invaluable service. And since not only are the fundamentals of the subject gone into, but where the American and English law are at variance, an endeavor has been made to point out the difference, this work should furnish much of assistance to American practitioners.

H. C. C.

The Reform of Legal Procedure. By Moorfield Storey, ex-President of the American Bar Association. New Haven: Yale University Press. London: Henry Frowde. Oxford University Press. 1911. pp. vii, 263.

In late years the legal profession has fallen in public estimation, and the public has not hesitated to voice its sentiments. Undesirable men and methods are often employed in the personal actions which flood our courts. There are numerous delays during the trial which should be eliminated. Our appellate courts dispose of about one-third the number of cases disposed of by similar English courts. Furthermore, the small percentage of convictions after arrest in criminal cases, due to the prisoner escaping on technicalities, has led the public to a belief that it is inadequately protected.